

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: March 23, 2021  
Time: 10:00am  
Place: Via Zoom Meeting  
Egremont

Present via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others participating via zoom: Mary McGurn, Jade Carroll, Rolfe Tessem, George & Ed Blanco, Eileen Vining, Jacquie Burdick, Don Pulfer, Jennifer Howard, Jeff Lazarus, Liz Newland, Jack, Jon Schaeffer, Juliette Haas, Chuck Ogden, Adam Chait, Joanna Nadeau, Rebecca Turner, Bill Tynan, Ira Taxin, Barbara Kalish, Don Coburn, Cara Becker, Rich Edwards, Ben Barrett, Rebecca Turner.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

Action on the minutes of the March 9 and March 16 minutes was deferred to the April 6 meeting.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

At 10:01am the Grant of Location and Pole Location hearing for Fiber Connect was called to order. All new pole locations are marked and a pre-meeting zoom sessions was held with abutters to answer any questions.

The request for placement of poles on Hickory Hill Road to place fiber optic lines on was unanimously approved as presented.

The request for placement of poles along Brookvale/Hilltop Road is complicated by the fact that the land abutting much of those private roads is owned by the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Mass Fisheries and Wildlife (MFW). As explained by Jennifer Howard (DCR) and Liz Newland(MFW) legislative easements would need to be issued. The process to get this easement is very long. It was suggested that those poles be moved closer to the road so they were not on state land or the lines be buried under the roadbed which is very expensive. The actual ownership of the roadway became a question. Resident Rich Edwards confirmed that in the development the roadway was owned by the abutting property owners and managed by the Home Owners Association. He thought the road through the reservation was an easement over the state owned property. Until these issues are resolved the Board cannot act on the pole location request. Adam Chait, CEO of Fiber Connect, will work with Jennifer, Liz and Rich to resolve these issues. Action was delayed to the Boards April 6 meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the grant of location for placement of fiber optic lines on the poles on Baldwin Hill North and Mount Washington Road from the Avenue to Patridge Drive.

Hearing closed at 10:44am

Joanne Nadeau and Jack Jols of Weston & Sampson have been recommended by the Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) Planning Committee to serve in the role of Certified Coordinator. Joanne Nadeau spoke about the role Weston & Sampson would play in supporting the application for the planning grant, assembling the core team, analyzing the towns needs, and presenting the priority action

plan to the Community, as well as helping to update the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Weston & Sampson is just wrapping up the same work in the Town of Richmond. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Weston & Sampson as the Town's MVP Certified Coordinator.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Catamount Ski Resort has applied for a one-day beer & wine license and live entertainment license for a July 3, 2021 event at the ski area. The application conforms with the Special Permit and all state laws and guidelines. 450 tickets will be sold to the event, which will host acoustic musical performances. The Board voted unanimously to issue both the one-day alcohol license and the one day live entertainment license.

The Board voted unanimously to re-appoint Carla Turner as the Inspector of Animals. It was noted that during the pandemic, farm inspections were not allowed by the state.

The Board voted unanimously to approve as a legal holiday, as mandated by MGL for benefitted town employees and to notify the Police and Highway Unions of this addition.

The Board voted unanimously to declare a Snow and Ice emergency, as required under MGL Chapter 44, Section 31D, in order to allow the town to overspend that budget, which is currently in red by \$3,330.

Jade Carroll asked the Board to consider adopting a law requiring farms to notify abutting property owners when they were going to spray pesticides. The information she submitted was from the State of Connecticut. The Board agreed to investigate the Massachusetts statutes and return to the subject at its April 6 meeting.

Bill Tynan, Chair of the Conservation Commission, announced that on June 30 he will be stepping down as Chair of the Commission due to time constraints. He will remain on the Commission for at least another year as a member.

The Board has received a letter from two members of the Board of Health asking that the request of Juliette Haas for additional hours and compensation be approved. The Board has not received such a request. As Juliette was in attendance she explained that her workload has increased substantially since the start of the pandemic and she would like to add Friday hours to her work week and be paid for those hours. Her position as Board of Health Director is a 21 hour per week position. The Board asked her to put her request in writing with details as to the extra hours she was seeking, the additional pay being sought and the extra duties she has been doing. She was also asked to include a delineation of her duties as Sustainability Coordinator which she also gets paid for. This request will then be considered by the Compensation Committee and the Board.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The Board reviewed the plan for lighting along Main Street the MassDOT has offered to include in the Route 23/41 Reconstruction project. It was agreed to have 20 lights, with unadorned, black poles that are no taller than 16', with a 75 watt luminaries at 3000 Kelvins. Placement of the lights will be at the portals to the village on each end, all five crosswalks, at all intersections and at the stairway to the South Egremont School. If MassDOT feels there is a need for 4 more lights for safety reasons they can pinpoint locations. The plan will be presented to MassDOT on the 24th for their final feedback.

#### COVID-19:

At the request of the Board of Health, the Board discussed mandating that employees get the

Covid vaccination, or adopt a policy that employees not vaccinated have to continue to wear a mask. It was noted that the current guidelines still require a mask for vaccinated people when not with family members. Town Hall employees are either already vaccinated or working on getting vaccinated. Chairman McGurn will speak with the Police and Highway Union Stewards to get the status of those employees.

The Board agreed to opening the Dog Park at French Park beginning Saturday, March 27 with an occupancy limit of 10 people at a time and a mandate to wear mask or be fined. The Police Department will be asked to return to patrolling the area on a regular basis. Board of Health Director Juliette Haas has the authority to issue fines as does the Police Department. The removal of waste is mandatory by the dog owner.

The Tennis Courts will re-open for play when all the snow and ice has melted off the courts. The nets are up. The same reservation protocols will be followed as where in place last summer/fall.

SELECTMEN ITEMS:

The Board will not meet on March 30. The next meeting will be via zoom on April 6 at 10am.

Meeting adjourned at 12:28pm.

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.21/mar23

*The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.*